Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SY-05 SS-15 /048 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA/ORM:RDORR:AVR APPROVED BY D/HA/ORM:JLCARLIN ARA - W. LUERS SCA - JWCARTER S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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O 261959Z JUL 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, CI

SUBJECT: EXPANDED PAROLE AUTHORITY FOR CHILEAN AND OTHER REFUGEES

GENEVA PLEASE PASS TO WILSON, D/HA

1. ON JULY 21 SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVI: QUOTE:

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS RECEIVED AN URGENT APPEAL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) TO JOIN THIRTY-THREE OTHER COUNTRIES IN PROVIDING RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOME 1,000 REFUGEES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARGENTINA WHO ARE PART OF THE ESTIMATED 15,000 CHILEAN,

URUGUAYAN AND BOLIVIAN REFUGEES IN THAT COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA HAS ALSO FORMALLY REQUESTED THE UNITED STATES AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES TO ASSIST IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN ITS TERRITORY.

WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE UNHCR'S APPEAL AND, WHILE WE WOULD LOOK TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA (AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST WITH RESPECT TO THOSE IN CHILE).

WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST AMERICAN TRADITION AND CONSISTENT WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN ISSUES TO ADMIT A MODEST NUMBER OF THESE REFUGEES WHO ARE FOUND ELIGIBLE IN THE CONTEXT OF SECTION 212 OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION ACT.

THE REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA ARE IN A PARTICULARLY GRAVE SITUATION. MANY OF THE GROUP WE WISH TO ASSIST HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF KIDNAPPING, TORTURE, AND MURDER. THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND ITS SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE VIOLENT AND CHAOTIC SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY, AND THE REFUGEES INCLUDE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL OPINIONS OR BACKGROUND.

IN CHILE, THERE REMAIN A SMALL NUMBER OF DETAINEES WHO FACE INDEFINITE CONFINEMENT UNDER CONDITIONS THAT RANGE FROM HARSH TO APPALLING, AS WELL AS FORMER DETAINEES WHO REMAIN IN FEAR OF PERSECUTION FOR THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS. TO ABRUPTLY HALT OUR PRESENT PROGRAM WOULD LEAVE US IN LIGHT OF PRESENT LAW WITHOUT A CONTINUING CAPABILITY TO ASSIST IN THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN CHILE AND WOULD LEAVE THESE PERSONS WITH LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF RELIEF.

ACCORDINGLY, WE PROPOSE THAT THE PRESENT CHILE PAROLE PROGRAM BE EXPANDED TO ENABLE US TO ACCEPT, FROM ARGENTINA AND FROM CHILE, UP TO TWO HUNDRED ADDITIONAL REFUGEES PLUS THEIR DEPENDENTS FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT ABOUT HALF OF THESE WOULD BE FROM THE THREATENED COMMUNITY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHILEAN, URUGUAYAN, AND BOLIVIAN REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA, AND THE REMAINING HALF WOULD BE DETAINEES AND FORMER DETAINEES IN CHILE. WE DO NOT, OF COURSE, PROPOSE THAT WE ACCEPT ANY PERSONS WHO ARE COMMUNISTS, TERRORISTS, OR OTHERWISE INELIGIBLE UNDER THE LAW OR WHO MAY BE SEEKING RELIEF FROM ECONOMIC DISTRESS RATHER THAN POLITICAL PERSECUTION. INDIVIDUAL CASES WOULD BE REFERRED, AS IN THE PAST, BY THE APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL

AGENCIES -- INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM) IN CHILE AND UNHCR IN ARGENTINA.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSAL TO USE THE PAROLE AUTHORITY IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IS IMPORTANT TO THE FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL GIVE IT EARLY AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE.

2. FOR POSTS' INFORMATION, WE ARE NOT NOW PUBLICIZING LETTER OR RELEASING ITS TEXT. WE ARE, HOWEVER, INFORMALLY INDICATING TO APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES

THAT A RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN MADE. TEXT IS PROVIDED HERE FOR POSTS' INFORMATION ONLY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLICIES, PAROLE

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 26 JUL 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE184575

Document Number: 1976STATE184575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: RDORR:AVR Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760287-0342

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760721/aaaaasaw.tel Line Count: 130 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ORIGIN ORM Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: saccheem

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 10 MAY 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by saccheem>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: EXPANDED PAROLE AUTHORITY FOR CHILEAN AND OTHER

TAGS: SREF, CI, US To: GENEVA

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006